

4/24/74

Dear Jim,

Your thoughtful gift of the book and the letter with it and that of the 22nd deserve more response than I can find time for. I have to leave to take my wife into town in a few moments, a lawyer is coming here tomorrow to work on one of the FBI suits, so if I am not to add to a stack that diminishes only intermittently and never fully, I'd best express my appreciation in haste rather than so late as to seem impolite or cause you concern.

All of it, including the inscription, are exceedingly kind. Thanks.

There was a time when a friend who had bought the book was given one as a present so he gave me his extra. I then read it. Among the things I did thereafter was ask Kirkwood for his interview with Russo. He did not respond. It is not possible that Kirkwood was certain to understand all that Perry might have said and it is more than possible that I could have detected in it what others might not have. This gives me all the reading I need on Kirkwood and the dispassion and seriousness of his purposes and writing.

On Belin, please don't go to all that expense. The one value it would have is completing my library. The book is certain to be a bomb, at some point it will be remaindered, and it is then likely that someone will pick up a copy when they see it advertised for a buck or so. It can't be worth the time to read it.

It is interesting that he ignored me because I ridiculed him rather heavily.

I take it as a compliment!

The tax prosecution of Jim was subhuman. It means he was charged with not paying income taxes on graft he was proven not to have taken. Even tax for this gang in Washington that is pretty terrible.

Your plans seem quite sensible. You are younger than you think and 1976 is a lot closer than it may seem to be.

I wish there were time to answer all your questions!

Thanks and best,